

IN OUR BACKYARD

JAN - 2 1991



AN UPDATE FROM THE ALBERTA SPECIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION



Bill Bresnahan receives recognition for his efforts in promoting reforestation. Left to right: Bill Bresnahan, Environment Minister Ralph Klein, Mrs. Connie Bresnahan.

PIC: ALBERTA PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU - PHOTO SERVICES

Alberta Environment Awards

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

At the fourth annual Alberta Environment Awards luncheon, held at the Royal Glenora Club in Edmonton on June 4th, a group of extra-

dinary Albertans were recognized for their contributions to the protection and improvement of Alberta's environment.

The awards honour individuals and organizations for their achievements in increasing public awareness and understanding of environmental concerns, for identifying and resolving environmental prob-

lems, and for demonstrating an exceptional commitment to environmental protection and improvement.

In the Individual Citizen Category, Strathcona County resident **Bill Bresnahan** was honoured for his lifelong commitment to environmental preservation. A professional

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August 1990
Volume 1
Number 6

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Produced every two months by the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, "In Our Backyard" is intended to keep Albertans updated on issues and solutions in hazardous waste management. You can contribute to the process by "recycling" this newsletter. Pass it on to a friend with your comments. And, should you have suggestions you wish to share, pass them on to us. Our address, phone and fax number are on Page 4.



Alberta
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ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

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educator and the Manager of the Forestry Youth and Social Development section of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, Mr. Bresnahan is involved with numerous conservation organizations. He has demonstrated his own commitment to reforestation by personally planting 400 seedlings a year.

In the Industry Category, the Calgary-based **Canadian Petroleum Association** was honoured for its efforts in seeking a balance between economic development and environmental quality. Within its member companies, the association developed a 'code of environmental ethics' which sets down guidelines for resolving communities' environmental concerns through cooperation and consultation.

The 1989 Grade 8A class of the **R.I. Baker School** in Coaldale was a deserving winner in the Education Category. The students' awareness campaign on the effects of pollution and acid rain generated a huge response throughout Alberta schools and resulted in some 4,000 letters being sent to Federal Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard.

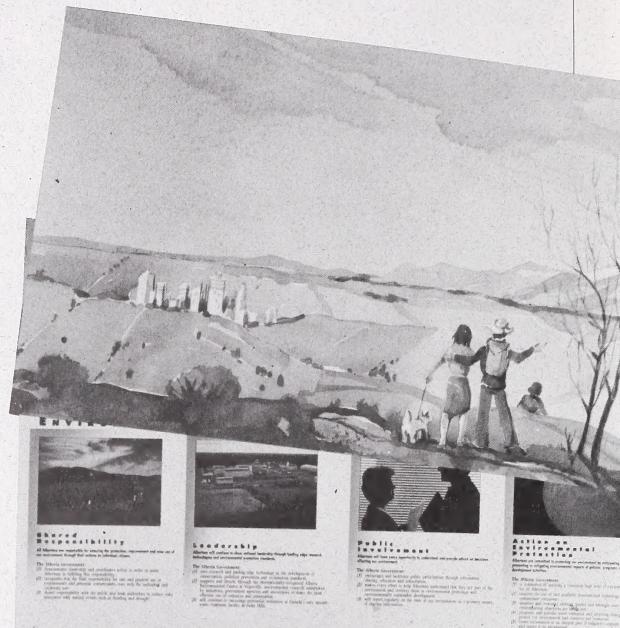
In the Volunteer Organization Category, the Calgary Region of the **Boy Scouts of Canada** received the award for its "21st Century Camping" program - an educational program designed to encourage environmentally-sound camping practices.

A highlight of this year's ceremony was the presentation of a Special Achievement Award to the Digital Switching Plant of **Northern Telecom Canada**. The special award recognized the extraordinary commitment of the plant's management and personnel to a comprehensive Environmental Protection Program. Through this program - which is already being copied by Northern Telecom's other 252 plants and offices in North America - waste levels are expected to be reduced by 90% from 1988 levels.

In making the presentations, Environment Minister Ralph Klein acknowledged the efforts of all nominees. "The awards," he said, "have given me, as well as many others, a new insight into the scope and variety of valuable work being carried out by Albertans."

THE PRICE CAN'T BE LICKED

The cost of shipping and treating a particular waste in Alberta is the same regardless of geographic location. A waste generator in Lethbridge pays the same amount to ship waste to the Treatment Centre as does a waste generator in Edmonton. It's called "postage stamp" pricing.



Speaking Out on the Environment

In January of this year, the Government of Alberta explained its environmental vision in a booklet distributed to more than 25,000 households. The mailer included an invitation from Environment Minis-

ON ALBERTA'S DETERMINATION TO LEAD IN RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY:

"Let's be leaders in protecting this part of our fragile earth."

"Why not develop the technology here for better environment management and sell it elsewhere instead of buying from somewhere else?"

ter Ralph Klein to submit comments and suggestions which could help shape our common future. Some 4,000 Albertans responded - and here are some of the things you had to say:

"Develop sound, enforceable standards based on scientific information."

"The Swan Hills plant should be developed to meet the needs of Alberta and made (financially) attractive to potential users."

ON PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

"It is important that public input is utilized and more important that the public's perception is that their input is being used."

"...education in environ-

mental issues is vital, both in schools and for the public at large. Coupled with this, encouragement should be given for the public to participate in all major environmental decisions."





Joan Butler appointed to ASWMC Board



Joan Butler. An original member of the Swan Hills Liaison Committee.

Swan Hills town councillor Joan Butler is the newest member of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation's Board of Directors.

A resident of Swan Hills since 1966, Mrs. Butler first managed the town's trailer court for eight years before taking ownership. She subsequently operated a number of community businesses until her recent retirement and her appointment to the Board.

One of the original four

members of the Swan Hills Liaison Committee, Mrs. Butler served with that body from May 1985 until November 1986, when she resigned upon election to the Town Council.

ASWMC Chairman Bob Clark announced the appointment-a three-year term of office commencing June 1st. Judging from past performance, Joan Butler will prove an effective representative both for Swan Hills and the central Alberta region.

AND SOME SUGGESTED INITIATIVES:

"We have established a special waste disposal facility. We should not only export this technology as planned, but we should be handling other Canadian wastes for profit when we can do so safely."

"Provide information on alternatives to toxic house and garden products."

"Chemicals, paints and other toxic substances should be picked up regularly by local authorities (or well-known drop-off sites should be established.)"

"No toxins should go into our rivers, creeks, lakes or ponds. No barns or corrals should be close enough to allow drainage into any of (these)."

"The government should continue to develop and sell technologies which address recycling and environmentally-

safe methods for disposing of hazardous goods."

"I feel there is nothing wrong with accepting hazardous wastes from other provinces as long as they adhere to strict regulatory transport guidelines."

"We need to develop initiatives ensuring that waste generators pay for the cost of waste disposal."

DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH

Greater Vancouver generates as much air pollution per capita as Greater Los Angeles. L.A. spends more than \$60m (U.S.) to combat air pollution while B.C. and Vancouver spent \$5m (Canadian) last year.

Edmonton Sun, 3 March, 1989

Centre's new manager looks to the future



Plant Manager Jack Selby – looking to the future.

Jack Selby has some clearly-defined goals as the new manager of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre.

In the short term, he says, we can expect to see new plant expansion, increased plant capacity, and even greater efficiencies in safety and environmental performance.

Once achieved, these goals

will contribute to his long-term ideal; the development of an operation capable of satisfying a greater demand for special waste treatment while maintaining a high regard for the environment and the community.

Appointed Plant Manager in April, Jack Selby joined Chem-Security (Alberta) Ltd. from the Chemical Division of Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd., where he was Vice-President in charge of Engineering, Environment and Safety. Before that, the UBC graduate in Chemical Engineering spent many years with the U.S.-based FMC Corporation, most recently as Vice-President Manufacturing and Plant Manager of the company's Chlorine and Caustic Plant in Squamish B.C.

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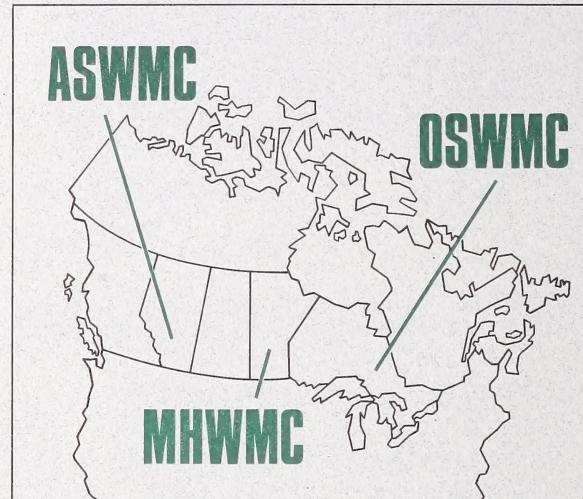
Corporations Cooperate

Representatives of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, the Ontario Waste Management Corporation and the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation got together recently to share information and explore matters of common concern.

Their first meeting determined two major common goals: the encouragement of the 4Rs philosophy (the *Reduction, Re-use, Recycling, and Recovery* of waste materials) and the use of alternatives to potentially hazardous products.

By establishing a common purpose, the Corporations expect to make their communications more effective, while saving time and money. Already, savings have been realised in the ordering of "Enviro-Dial" - a guide which helps generators determine the best disposal method for their waste - and other opportunities are being explored.

All parties agreed that the first session was extremely productive - with the result that they plan to continue meeting twice a year.



CALL DIRECT:

▲ For information on:

- Hazardous Waste Management Programs in Alberta
- Toxic Round-Ups
- Community Study Groups

**ALBERTA SPECIAL
WASTE MANAGEMENT
CORPORATION**

1-800-272-8873

422-5029 (Edmonton)

428-9627 (Fax)

▲ For information on the transportation of dangerous goods:

**ALBERTA PUBLIC
SAFETY SERVICES**

1-800-272-9600

▲ For a directory of waste management companies in Alberta:

**ALBERTA SPECIAL
WASTE SERVICES
ASSOCIATION**

424-6384 (Edmonton)

▲ For information on:

- Used Oil Program
- Recycling: Newspaper, Metals, Plastics, Clothing

**RECYCLING BRANCH,
ALBERTA**

ENVIRONMENT

427-5838 (Edmonton)

297-5923 (Calgary)

▲ To report an environmental emergency or register a complaint:

**POLLUTION CONTROL
DIVISION, ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT**

1-800-222-6514

▲ To access the clearing house that puts potential users of waste materials in contact with waste producers:

**ALBERTA WASTE
MATERIALS
EXCHANGE**

450-5408 (Edmonton)

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